

Interview with Mrs. Kenning, by John Byl, August 5, 1991.

JB: I was wondering if you attended MES?

K: No, I was in the PHE class, at the U. of T. MES was just closing up at that time. I started in 1941. I graduated in 1944. I did not attend MES but certainly knew all about it.

JB: Can I ask you a few questions about that?

K: If I can remember anything.

JB: I wonder if the U. of T. would have began if MES had not joined up.

K: I guess MES stopped when the school of PHE started at the U. of T. I did not consider MES because they were not offering any more courses.

JB: You attended that camp in september?

K: Camp Tanamakoon. It was great! The month os September for two years. Canoeing, sailing and camping and that kind of thing. There were 26 in the class, 16 boys and 10 girls.

JB: Do you recall how many MES students may have transferred over?

K: I do not think any did... as far as I know they didn't.

JB: Was there any drama or any of that kind of thing in the PE program at the U. of T.?

K: We didn't have any drama. We took regular university courses plus PHED courses. Three years after Sr. Matriculation [grade 13]....

JB: Did you take any courses with Florence Somers?

K: Yes, I think she taught something about the history of PE.... We did not have her a great deal. A tall woman.

JB: How about Dorothy Jackson?

K: I remember her because she lived in the residences, and she was very stern... She was fine... I don't remember having to wear hats... Strict about manners, dress, conversation, and all that sort of thing.

JB: Shirley Naylor.

K: I remember the name, but do not think we had much to do with her.

JB: Layton?

K: Dr. Ryerson was in charge. Did not know her.

Interview with Pat Flynn MacKeigan, on August 14, 1991 by John Byl.

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JB: ... I received your name through Carol Hendry Duffus but I could not find your name on my lists.

PM: I'll tell you why. It's because when I went there we stayed at the Margaret Eaton Residence, but the school had just been turned over to the University of Toronto. The last year was the year before I was there. I just stayed in the Margaret Eaton Residence and we had the same dawn and dean and everything else and the same staff and we went to the MES for all our practical but it had just joined the University of Toronto. 1942....

JB: Could I ask you a few question still.

PM: Sure.

JB: Florence Somers... do you have any recollections of her?

PM: Oh yes. We went down to see her in Cape Cod after she retired. She retired down there. She was a professor for so long and one you were not strong on when you were there but you sure remembered her after. I guess a lot of people went down to visit her in her home after she retired. She was a caring warm person. I went down with my husband and we stayed at her house over night and talked over old things.

JB: She died 15 years or so ago.

PM: Yes, but Charlotte Layton was hear. I still have her death notice right here.... I wonder if anyone else there would have her stuff. Her brother and so on live in Truro.... I have her... she is survived by her brother, Dr. Norman MacGregor in Truro. Why is he MacGregor.... She is survived by two nieces, a nephew and three grand-nieces. She is pre-diseased by a sister and brother.... He must Dr. Norman MacGregor Layton because her mother was a Bessie MacGregor Layton. He may be known as a MacGregor Layton. She was a piano graduate to begin with. She taught piano in Truro years ago. She went to Acadia... got a Bachelor of Arts in 1916 and she attended the 70th reunion in 1986. This is from the Halifax paper but I haven't got the date....

JB: Do you know anything more about Florence Somers?

PM: Oh yes, she was top notch. When your in first year, you know, and there is a disciplinarian you are not sure. She was strict. She was one that you were really in awe of

latter on. Latter on you realized how much she had given you.

JB: Was there a particular view of physical education that she wanted to pass on?

PM: She did history of PE and History of dance. I think they were very broad. I was quite surprised. Maybe because they were just integrating with Toronto University. I know we were quite unique. We were neither fish nor fowl. We lived in a residence of all women, but it was combined school.

JB: How about Dorothy Jackson?

PM: Yes she lived in the residence.... I just think of energy. She was excellent in her field, in games and gymnastics and so on. These were all practical things. I don't remember her one way or the other in the residence. I suppose she was a dawn of some kind.

JB: People have said she was quite strict.

PM: Oh yea. The residence were very much for training us to be ladies. I remember one instance where I returned to the residence and said I was planning to go home in a month or so. I was told, "you don't tell us you ask." It was still girl's school. You had grace before dinner, and you had tea on sunday afternoon in the parlour, you had to wear hats. You see they were still trying to do this after, but I think it could not be enforced anymore, even though we were still in their residences instead of the U. of T. residences. Yes it was still a ladies home....

JB: Do you know any of the MES graduates?

PM: Lois Creighton is still around and lives in Hubbarts, she is Lois Harnish. This is just outside Halifax.... Roy Harnish is her husband, and she is probably in the phone book.... I'll tell you who else is around is Barbara Reardon. I met her because I grew up next door to her husband. You know in someways, even though you were not part of their school, when you live in it, it had an atmosphere that really rubbed off. You feel as though you were part of the school. And it was like a big family. Betty Thomas was in the room that I took and she left a couple of her gym gear in their and so you think, oh she lost that, I better return it to her one of these times.

Interview with Mr. Osburn, husband of Barbara Heseltine
August 16, 1991, by John Byl

JB: Was your wife Muriel Sinclair?

TB: My wife was Barbara Heseltine. She was a gold medallist at MES. She was a gold medallist, went back to Japan, taught in Japan and she came back to Canada and taught at Crofton House and taught for a year physical education. Then we married. She died about a year ago.

JB: ... I received a sister for, what I thought was your wife, on Ganges [Saltspring Island - BC]. You wouldn't happen to have a cottage or something there would you?

TB: That was probably my brother. And his wife is Muriel Sinclair, and she went to MES to I think. We are brothers....

JB: How is it that two brothers ended up marrying an MES graduate?

TB: Just coincidence I guess.... I can't talk about Baab's, she died as I told you. I do know that after she graduated she got the gold medal and that she taught in Crofton House here for a year after teaching in Japan. I think they brought her back because she was a gold medallist. That's where I met her in Vancouver.

JB: Did she do any other teaching once she was married?

TB: No. In those days, when you married the wife was a homemaker not ah.... We have 3 children.

JB: Have she or you kept in contact with other MES graduates?

TB: Not particularly. I have more contact with her Crofton House students here. She was very young. Only a few years older than the students she was teaching here.

JB: Where did she come from before MES?

TB: She was born in Yokohama Japan. Her father was in the shipping business. Like all British people I guess, they sent their children to school in Victoria, and Baabs went to St Margarets in Victoria. From there she was sent down to MES I guess... We were married over 52 years...



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